Frank L. Culbertson, Jr.

Current Responsibilities: Currently the Program Executive and Deputy General Manager of the newly formed Science and Systems Engineering Solutions Business Unit of SAIC. In this role he oversees nine major programs providing solutions and services for the USAF, NASA, NOAA, USGS, and the FAA. Prior to this assignment, Culbertson served as SAIC's program manager for the Safety, Reliability, and Quality Assurance Services contract at Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, and was Operations Manager for the Assurance Engineering Operation.

Previous: Captain, USN, (Ret.), NASA Astronaut

Education: Bachelor of Science degree in Aerospace Engineering from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1971. Distinguished Graduate, US Naval Test Pilot School.

Organizations: Senior Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, member of the Association of Naval Aviators, Aircraft Owners & Pilots Association, the Aviation Boatswains Mate's Association, and the Association of Space Explorers. Appointed in 2005 to FAA's Commercial Space Technical Advisory Committee (COMSTAC) by Secretary of Commerce Norman Mineta. Member of the Advisory Board for the Reliability and Maintainability Symposium (RAMS).

Experience: Culbertson graduated from Annapolis in 1971 and served aboard the USS Fox (CG-33) in the Gulf of Tonkin prior to reporting to flight training in Pensacola, Florida. After designation as a Naval Aviator at Beeville, Texas, in May 1973, he flew F-4 Phantom aircraft in VF-121, NAS Miramar, California, in VF-151 aboard the USS Midway (CV-41), permanently homeported in Yokosuka, Japan, and with the USAF in the 426th TFTS at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, where he served as Weapons and Tactics Instructor. Culbertson then served as the Catapult and Arresting Gear Officer for the USS John F. Kennedy (CV-67) until May 1981 when he was selected to attend the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School, Patuxent River, Maryland. Following graduation with distinction in June 1982, he was assigned to the Carrier Systems Branch of the Strike Aircraft Test Directorate where he served as Program Manager for all F-4 testing and as a test pilot for automatic carrier landing system tests and carrier suitability. He was engaged in fleet replacement training in the F-14A Tomcat at VF-101, NAS Oceana, Virginia, from January 1984 until his selection by NASA for the astronaut program. He has logged over 6,500 hours flying time in 50 different types of aircraft, and 350 carrier arrested landings.

NASA Experience: Selected as a NASA astronaut candidate in May 1984, Culbertson completed basic astronaut training in June 1985. Technical assignments since then included: member of the team that redesigned and tested the Shuttle nosewheel steering, tires, and brakes; member of the launch support team at Kennedy Space Center for Shuttle flights 61-A, 61-B, 61-C, and 51-L; in 1986, worked at the NASA Headquarters Action Center in Washington, D.C., assisting with the Challenger accident investigations conducted by NASA, the Presidential Commission, and Congress; lead astronaut at the Shuttle Avionics Integration Laboratory (SAIL); lead of the First Emergency Egress Team; and lead spacecraft communicator (CAPCOM) in the Mission Control Center for seven missions (STS-27, 29,30, 28, 34, 33, and 32). Following his first flight, he served as the Deputy Chief of the Flight Crew Operations Space Station Support Office as well as the lead astronaut for Space Station Safety. He was also a member of the team evaluating the hardware and procedures for the proposed mission to dock with the Russian Space Station Mir. Following STS-51, Culbertson was Chief of the Astronaut Office Mission Support Branch; then Chief of the Johnson Space Center Russian Projects Office. In 1994, Culbertson was named Deputy Program Manager, Phase 1 Shuttle-Mir, and in 1995 became Manager of the Shuttle-Mir Program. He was responsible for a multi-national team which executed nine Shuttle docking missions to the Russian Space Station Mir, with seven astronauts spending 30 months cumulatively on-board the Mir Station, plus all the associated science and docking hardware to ensure the success of the joint program, a precursor to the building of the joint International Space Station. Just prior to his last flight assignment, Culbertson spent one year as Deputy Program Manager for Operations of the International Space Station Program.

A veteran of three space flights, Culbertson has logged over 144 days in space. He was pilot of STS-38 aboard Atlantis, a classified mission for the Department of Defense in November 1990. In September 1993, Culbertson commanded STS-51 aboard Discovery, a ten-day mission to which included the deployment of two satellites, the in-flight recovery of a science satellite, a spacewalk to test tools for the Hubble repair mission, and the first night landing of the Shuttle at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. Culbertson’s most recent mission was as Commander of the International Space Station from August until December, 2001. He and his two cosmonaut crewmates launched aboard Endeavour and then returned on Discovery after 129 days in space, conducting

numerous science experiments and four spacewalks.

Capt. Culbertson retired from NASA in 2002.